

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"



Cameron County Fever Tick Preventative Quarantine Area (TPQA) *Frequently Asked Questions*

Question: What is a Cattle Fever Tick?

Answer: Cattle Fever ticks, known scientifically as *Rhipicephalus* (formerly *Boophilus*) *annulatus* and *R. microplus*, are a significant threat to the United States cattle industry. These ticks are capable of carrying the protozoa, or microscopic parasites, *Babesia bovis* or *B. bigemina*, commonly known as cattle fever.

The *Babesia* organism attacks and destroys red blood cells, causing acute anemia, high fever, and enlargement of the spleen and liver, ultimately resulting in death for up to 90 percent of susceptible naive cattle.

What is a Control Purpose Quarantine Area (CPQA)?

Answer: A **control purpose quarantine area** is an area designated by the commission for a systematic inspection of livestock, susceptible wildlife and premises around an infested premises not located in the permanent quarantine zone. The control purpose quarantine areas have similar movement requirements to the permanent quarantine zone or a temporary preventative quarantine area (TPQA). There are currently three CPQAs located in Jim Wells, Kleberg and Willacy counties. Tick quarantine areas are comprised of four type of premises: infested, adjacent, check, and exposed.

What is an Infested Premises?

Answer: An **infested premises** is a premises where fever ticks have been found on livestock or wildlife that have been on the premises for more than 14 days.

What is an Adjacent Premises?

Answer: An **adjacent premises** borders an exposed or infested premises, including premises separated by roads, double fences, or fordable streams.

What is an Exposed Premises?

Answer: A **premises** is considered as an exposed premises if systematic treatment has not been completed and if either of the following conditions apply:

- Ticks have been found on livestock that have been on the premises for less than 14 days.
- A premises that has received exposed livestock, or equipment or material capable of carrying ticks from an infested or exposed premises.

What is a Check Premises?

Answer: A **check premises** is a premises located in the tick eradication quarantine area, TPQA, or CPQA boundary that is not classified as an infested, exposed, or adjacent premise.

Question: Why is a Temporary Preventative Quarantine Area (TPQA) created?

Answer: A CPQA or cluster of CPQAs are changed to a TPQA when a complex situation arises, usually involving multiple infested premises. Formalizing CPQAs as a TPQA helps ensure better compliance with tick regulations and awareness of the situation by the public. TPQAs are created by a formal notice process outlined in the TAHC regulations.

Question: How was the TPQA in Cameron County determined?

Answer: The presence of cattle fever ticks was confirmed on multiple Cameron County premises located outside the permanent quarantine zone in the summer of 2014. Hundreds of potentially affected premises and a wildlife component further complicated the situation. In order to protect the land, premises, and animals from exposure to cattle fever ticks, the TAHC created the temporary preventative quarantine area (also commonly known as the "TPQA" or "Blanket Area"). This TPQA, and its requirements, went into effect on October 7, 2014 to ensure better enforcement of tick regulations and better awareness to the public.

Question: Where is the Temporary Preventative Quarantined Area (TPQA) in Cameron County?

Answer: The Temporary Preventative Quarantined Area is within the boundaries of a line beginning at a point in Cameron County where Farm to Market Road (FM) 511 and Captain Donald L. Foust Road intersect (25.950997; -97.412259); thence, northwest along FM 511 for 9.43 miles to FM 803 (26.028682; -97.530968); thence, north along FM 803 for 21.3 miles to FM 2925 (26.335137; -97.491350); thence, east along FM 2925 for 7.28 miles to the east side of the Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park eastern-most parking lot (26.349462; -97.390468) (parking lot); thence, north along the east side of the parking lot for 61.3 yards to the Arroyo Colorado (26.349960; -97.390577); thence, east along the Arroyo Colorado shoreline for 4.45 miles to Laguna Madre (26.353917; -97.325179); thence, southeast along the Laguna Madre shoreline for 55.33 miles to the Brownsville Navigation District Ship Channel (26.064276; -97.775511) (Brownsville Ship Channel); thence, southwest along the Brownsville Ship Channel for 16.4 miles to the point on Windhaus Road that is a straight line southwest of the Brownsville Ship Channel (25.952057; -97.403765); thence, north along Windhaus Road for .1 mile to Captain Donald L. Foust Road (25.952738; -97.404135); thence, west along Captain Donald L. Foust Road for .52 miles to FM 511 (25.950997; -97.412259), the beginning.

Question: How many acres does the TPQA in Cameron County consist of?

Answer: The TPQA consists of approximately 223,000 acres.

Question: How long will the TPQA be in effect?

Answer: The TPQA will remain in effect until all premises within it are released from fever tick quarantines and the area is determined to no longer be at risk of infestation. Within this area, all livestock (cattle and equine) and live or hunted wildlife (such as nilgai antelope and white-tailed deer) that are capable of hosting fever ticks, are subject to movement restrictions, inspections and treatment as prescribed by TAHC fever tick regulations. It is imperative to have the cooperation of local ranchers and hunters to expedite the process of eradicating the fever tick from the TPQA. Usually producers inside a TPQA that are not classified as infested, exposed or adjacent will be asked to present their animal every 90 days at minimum for inspection, to ensure adequate surveillance in the area is performed.

Question: Do I have to get my cattle and /or equine sprayed/dipped before I move them within or out of the TPQA?

Answer: Yes. As part of establishing the TPQA and controlling the spread of fever ticks, livestock must be inspected and treated prior to movement. Call 512-937-8843 for more information.

Question: Where is the Lozano Cattle Dipping Vat and Horse Spraying Station located, and what are the hours of operation?

Answer: The vat is located at 30934 FM 1561, San Benito, TX 78586. (On FM 1561, three tenths of a mile west of FM 803.) Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday: 8 am to 5 pm and Saturday: 7 am- 12 pm. Additional times are available by appointment. To schedule an appointment call: 512-937-8843.

Question: What is a 14 day pass?

Answer: A 14 day pass allows an animal (usually a horse or show cattle) to move under a treatment agreement on or before the 14th day after the pass was issued. Animals that move frequently can be set up on a 14 day pass to be inspected and treated on a schedule, acceptable to the producer so they don't have to call for an inspection every time they need to move their animals.

Question: I am entering the TPQA with horses/cattle from a "free" area, what is required?

Answer: Although not required, we encourage producers to call and have animals inspected/treated prior to entering a quarantine area. This ensures the animal was free of ticks when it entered the area. Call 512-937-8843 to have animals inspected/treated.

Question: Is there a fee to have my animal(s) inspected and treated?

Answer: No. Inspections and treatments are free of charge.

Question: Other than cattle and horses, what other species host the fever tick?

Answer: Potential hosts of cattle fever ticks include but are not limited to: cattle, horses, white-tailed deer, and exotic hoofstock such as nilgai and red deer.

Question: Is there additional literature that I can read about Cattle Fever Ticks?

Answer: Yes. For additional information about the Cattle Fever Tick visit:

- http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/fevertick/fevertick.html
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tick/downloads/pest_alert.pdf

Question: Where is the Cameron County Fever Tick Response Office located?

Answer: The TAHC/USDA Cameron County Fever Tick Response office is located at 105 West Ocean Boulevard, Los Fresnos, TX 78566.

Question: If I need more information, what should I do?

Answer: For more information about the temporary preventative quarantine area and movement requirements, call 512-937-8843.

www.tahc.texas.gov